

FAMILY JUSTICE YOUNG PEOPLE'S BOARD UPDATE



Cafcass Board Meeting

28th May 2021

FJYPB

1. FJYPB Support Team

We have recently recruited the new FJYPB apprentice, Luba, who joined our support team in February. We are excited for the additional work this will enable us to do.

2. FJYPB Communications

We have been working with Cafcass Comms to submit our business case for Cabinet Office approval for our website, as well as undertaking work on what we want this to look like. We have written confirmation of ministerial support from MP Vicky Ford and Lord David Wolfson of Tredgar QC to submit with the business case.



We are also continuing our work with Microsoft Teams to develop a Microsoft Teams site to help us stay in touch better and keep updated about commissions.

3. 10 years of the FJYPB

This year we will be celebrating the FJYPB's 10th birthday! We will be celebrating throughout August and September with exciting plans including:

- A celebration event in person for current and previous board members;
- Promoting the FJYPB and its achievements via Cafcass comms and also highlighting what we want to achieve in the future;
- Setting challenges for the agencies we work with;
- and an FJYPB video including our favourite highlights over the last 10 years and messages from our stakeholders on our work and impact.

4. FJYPB Priorities 2021

Our priorities for 2021(which includes extending our reach!) are:

- To continue to raise the importance of asking and understanding the diversity of children and young people in family law proceedings, how to ensure they are treated equally and are included in key decisions made about their lives. To develop an Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion National Charter.
- To continue to raise the awareness of the impact domestic abuse has on children and young people in family law proceedings. To develop a Domestic Abuse National Charter.
- To continue to work with the Department for Education and seek opportunities to share good practice across schools and advice on how teachers can appropriately support children and young people involved in family law proceedings and family breakdown.

- To work with local authorities to promote the voice of the child in care proceedings. In particular them having a voice in and having sight of reports that are making life changing recommendations to family courts.
- To continue to work with our partners to secure appropriate outcome letters for children and young people at the end of their proceedings.
- To raise the profile of the FJYPB by developing our own website, social media and consider national media to share our key messages.

FJYPB and Cafcass

1. Recruitment

We recently met with HR to discuss how the FJYPB can become more involved in the recruitment process and are working with HR to create pre-recorded interview questions for candidates to respond to when we are unable to join the panel on the day. We are aiming to be involved in the recruitment of all staff within Cafcass including business services.

2. Leadership Live Events

Throughout February and March, FJYPB members have joined the Leadership Live Events to give presentations on several topics, such as Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion, as well as manageable caseloads. Katie, who presented on Monday 22nd March, said *“Jacky and the senior leadership team are an asset to Cafcass. The FJYPB are proud to support them at events such as the leadership live, especially to express our thanks to those on the front line.”*

3. Ofsted

FJYPB members Imogen, Laura, Ben, Ellie, and Malak all took part in an interview with Ofsted as part of their focused visit on 16th April. Ellie said, *“Looking back over everything the Board has accomplished over the last year really drove home the vast impact we have to me, and I hope also to OFSTED!”* Well done Cafcass!

4. Subject Access Requests

FJYPB members Katie and Ellie have identified that Cafcass need to do better on Subject Access Requests (SARs) for children and young people and also what information is given to children and young people about SARs. Katie and Ellie have led this piece of work involving other board members and Cafcass legal and have written to Jacky regarding this. They are also creating a ‘How to’ guide resource for other children and young people to use when making a request. The proposal is to hold a workshop at the board meeting on 5th June 2021 to review the information contained on the Cafcass Website for children and young people on SARs and also to update the information for children and young people.

5. World Social Work Day

Sally Cheshire and Sophie Humphries joined FJYPB members Ben and Koreisha to host an interview for World Social Work Day on how the FJYPB stays connected with the Cafcass Board. This interview was made available for all Cafcass staff via the intranet. Ben commented that *“it was great to speak with Sally and Sophie about some of the current issues we’re facing through Covid and to hear some of their insights. I think we all learned something from that conversation.”*

6. E-Learning

Following the success of our Voice of the Child webinars held in October 2020 and March 2021, we are now producing an online E-Learning resource for Cafcass staff which will focus on the impact and effects of domestic abuse on children and young people in family law proceedings. The resource will

include statistics of the impact of domestic abuse and several “In my Shoes” from FJYPB members and their experiences of domestic abuse. We will be launching this in June for all agencies. We were also requested to produce a webinar specifically aimed at business services staff which we are in the process of doing. **We hope that you will also undertake the E-Learning.**

FJYPB and the wider sector

- 1. Meetings** – We have met with MP Vicky Ford and Anne Longfield, the Children’s Commissioner (CC) for England. In these meetings we have shared examples of our work and how we can be a part of the projects and research they are doing. The Office of the Children’s Commissioner (OCC) have agreed to share our Top Tips to promote on their website and through social media.
- 2. DfE** – The Department for Education have invited us to hold regular meetings with them so we can share our work and be part of projects and research they are doing. On the 24th March, FJYPB members Koreisha and Laura attended a workshop with the DfE to look at the roles of professionals involved with child protection and to discuss support in schools during COVID relating to Domestic Abuse.
- 3. HMCTS** – HMCTS recently held a webinar from Private Law Family Solutions offering a training session for those who deal with FHDRAs to consider what was reported and adapting practice. FJYPB member Molly attended this webinar to present her ‘In my Shoes’ on her own personal experiences.
- 4. Family Justice Council Conference** – FJYPB members Josh and Katie were invited to speak at the Family Justice Council conference in March to give a presentation on adoption from a young person’s perspective in which Josh presented his ‘In my Shoes’ on his own personal experiences.
- 5. Health and Wellbeing Alliance: Reducing Parental Conflict** – FJYPB members Molly and Laura recently attended the HWA meeting which focused on how services can build trust with families to be able to talk about conflict and conflict resolution.
- 6. CYP Now Awards** – We are delighted that we were nominated as finalists for the Children and Young People Now Awards 2020! We submitted our entry last year under the category of Family Justice. Although we did not win this year, we were congratulated as a highly commended finalist.
- 7. Transparency Review** - The FJYPB have responded to the recent call for evidence for the Transparency Review, looking at the current arrangements which regulate access by journalists and the public to information concerning proceedings in the Family Court. As part of this, FJYPB members Katie and Laura attended an oral evidence session on 17th May where they gave a 15-minute presentation on our response, followed by a Q&A session. The President of the Family Division attended alongside several other panel members.
- 8. Social Work England CPD Consultation** – The FJYPB have been asked to work with Social Work England as part of their 12-week consultation process regarding year 3 Continuing Professional Development requirements. We are currently liaising with Social Work England on how we will get involved.
- 9. Principal Social Worker Network** – The FJYPB have been asked by the Chief Social Worker, Isabelle Trowler, to attend a session with the Principal Social Worker network. We are in the process of arranging this.

Forward Look

- **5th June 2021** – Next FJYPB meeting